

What is claimed is:

Claim 1: An image forming apparatus comprising:

an image carrier; and

an elastic transfer roller configured to press against said image carrier, and configured to convey a recording medium between said elastic transfer roller and said image carrier to thereby transfer a toner image from said image carrier to said recording medium, said elastic transfer roller positioned in an angular range of less than $\pm 45^\circ$ from a top of said image carrier in a direction of rotation of said image carrier and has a greater diameter at opposite end portions than at a center portion in an axial direction of said transfer roller,

wherein the top of said image carrier is a line on an upper side of said image carrier intersecting a plane through a rotational axis of the image carrier and perpendicular to a horizon, and

wherein said elastic transfer roller has a lower hardness at opposite end portions than at a center portion in an axial direction of said transfer roller.

Claim 2: An image forming apparatus comprising:

an image carrier; and

an elastic transfer roller configured to press against said image carrier, and configured to convey a recording medium between said elastic transfer roller and said image carrier to thereby transfer a toner image from said image carrier to said recording medium, said elastic transfer roller positioned in an angular range of less than $\pm 45^\circ$ from a top of said image carrier in a direction of rotation of said image

carrier and has a greater diameter at opposite end portions than at a center portion in an axial direction of said transfer roller,

wherein the top of said image carrier is a line on an upper side of said image carrier intersecting a plane through a rotational axis of the image carrier and perpendicular to a horizon, and

wherein said elastic transfer roller has a lower density at opposite end portions than at a center portion in an axial direction of said transfer roller.

Claim 3: An image forming apparatus comprising:

an image carrier; and

an elastic transfer roller configured to press against said image carrier, and configured to convey a recording medium between said elastic transfer roller and said image carrier to thereby transfer a toner image from said image carrier to said recording medium, said elastic transfer roller positioned in an angular range of less than $\pm 45^\circ$ from a top of said image carrier in a direction of rotation of said image carrier and has a greater diameter at opposite end portions than at a center portion in an axial direction of said transfer roller,

wherein the top of said image carrier is a line on an upper side of said image carrier intersecting a plane through a rotational axis of the image carrier and perpendicular to a horizon, and

wherein said elastic transfer roller has a lower electric resistance at opposite end portions than at a center portion in an axial direction of said transfer roller.